

without violating the rules of mourning, to produce unobjectionable contrasts and harmonious blendings. To effect this, we must first consider that our statuary marble is of a cold tone (not like the fair one's cheek that received the black patches), and can only be successfully relieved by bringing a warm colour to its aid, which exists not in the black or cold grey marble. No one can but acknowledge the beauty and brilliancy of marbles or plaster-casts against a red papered wall, and red baize is commonly used when such works are exhibiting. Again, how enhanced is a statue relieved by a sunny painting, and not more so than the painting, if good, and not too near the statue. A few carefully-arranged marbles and casts in the picture-rooms of the Royal Academy, to rest the eye upon, would relieve many a sickened brain and confused mind from the glare of colours that meet, without relief, at every point, the wearied spectator.

Nature gives us the lesson; and of her we learn that cold colour should ever be relieved by warm, and warm colours by cool tints. In monumental works, therefore, if a back-ground be required (for where there is a warm stone ground it is not), and a warm medium cannot be got in marble, I would suggest the use of fresco or encaustic, or other durable material, by which appliances a vast field is opened to the man of taste and discernment. For with these, without violating, as I have before said, the rules of mourning, warm greys, of every variety of tint, might be substituted for the one miserable, cold dove-colour; and in some instances more positive tints might misplace the melancholy black. And not only would the artist's work be rendered infinitely more pleasing by this substitute, but the church would, at the same time, receive an equal benefit. That monumental tablets are altogether incorrect, of whatever order, with the sacred walls, I believe; but being introduced, our aim is to render them Christian in character, reposeful, cheerful, and harmonious. Those who merely know our churches as they are, with their cold, washed walls, the colder marbles, and their colder grounds, will wonder at these bold suggestions; but those who know and find by daily experience the great care taken by our ancestors, and the chaste and elegant decorations they introduced into these same whitewashed buildings, as the first fruits of art and labour offered to the great Being whose houses they are, will, I am sure, excuse my earnestness for wishing to substitute tasteful art for tasteless statuary.

EDWARD RICHARDSON.

Melbury-terrace, Blandford-square.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE dockworks (New North) at Liverpool, in course of construction for several years, are drawing to a close. The docks are to be opened the end of July or beginning of August.—The dock-committee have contracted with the Rugby Iron Company for 1,000 tons of iron railway, for which tenders were lately lodged.—The Hullersfield Improvement Bill has reached its third reading in the House of Lords without alteration.—The works at the Marquis of Londonderry's mansion, Wynyard-hall, are nearly completed. The chapel (in which the fire originated) is being fitted up with massive columns and pilasters of solid marble. The whole of the floor and east end will also be of marble, supplied by Messrs. Nelson, of Carlisle.—The Bradford workhouse, undermined by coal workings, runs an immense risk of tumbling down about the ears of the inmates. One of the guardians the other day thrust his arm right through a hole in the wall.—The ancient well at Westbromwich, called the "Lyndon Pearl," and known as the refresher of Cromwell and his troopers, has had a narrow escape from the hands of the spoiler, the inhabitants having reverentially risen, *en masse*, to preserve their far-famed medicine patent to all.—An improvement of some importance to the town of Devizes is to be effected by the demolition of an unsightly lump of building facing Long-street, and the throwing of the whole space open to the street. On a site adjoining a new saving's bank is to be erected.

CHURCHES, CHAPELS, AND SCHOOLS.

THE Incorporated Society for building Churches and Chapels, at their late meeting, issued orders for nearly 3,000*l.* voted in aid of the erection of five new churches and the enlargement of other seven, the works being now completed. They also made fresh grants for the erection of six additional churches, the rebuilding with enlargement of the existing churches, and the increased accommodation of others, in twelve districts and parishes. The new churches are to be erected at St. James's, Devonport; Thorpe, near Norwich; Shewen, near Neath; Headington Quarry, near Oxford; Deal; and St. Luke's, Jersey. The churches to be rebuilt are those of Foulness Island, near Rochford, in place of its old wooden one; at Llanfairfechan, near Bangor; and at Walsingham, Durham. Redbourne, near St. Alban's; Bywell, St. Peter's, near Gateshead; and Leigh, near Riegate, are to be enlarged, &c. Three thousand eight hundred new and free sittings will thus be obtained.—St. Augustine's College, at Canterbury (of which we lately gave a view), was to be consecrated on the 29th inst.—Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, was consecrated on Saturday week. It is in the early English style, of brick, and cruciform, comprising the nave and two aisles, with a chancel. Over the communion-table there is a stained-glass window, presented by Mr. Legh Richmond. The building will seat 850 persons, and was commenced in October, 1846. The cost will not be less than 3,000*l.*; the site, with 200*l.*, presented by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, lord of the manor; 1,400*l.* by the inhabitants, and grants from Church Building Societies. A school has been built in the vicinity of the church, uniform with it, and a residence for the master.—The new church at Weybridge was also consecrated on Saturday week.—The first stone of the new church at Headington Quarry was laid by the Bishop of Oxford on Monday week, when he also opened the new schools at Headington.—Sandford Church, Devon, has been reopened. An eastern window, by Mr. Merriek, of Bristol, in memory of Sir H. Davy, and a new font by Mr. Rowe, of St. Sidwell's, Exeter, are noticed.—A new church is to be built at Pillgweally, Newport, site given by Sir C. Morgan, and half the cost realized.—Some Cockney sportsman, while firing at sparrows, has accidentally hit the higher gable in the painted window of Upwell Church, which has been thus "grievously injured."—The new Baptist Chapel at Dunstable, though unfinished, has been opened for divine service.—The Rev. T. B. Holgate, Vicar of Bishopston, near Stockton, and his sisters, have rebuilt the parish church, and furnished it with bells, a clock, and an organ, at a cost to themselves of 11,000*l.*—A Mrs. Mathewman has left about 30,000*l.* for the purpose of building and endowing churches in Leeds, of which place she was a native.—A number of carved stalls, the workmanship of a resident artist, have recently been erected in the choir of Durham Cathedral. It was while preparing for the placing of these stalls that Bishop Beaumont's tomb was discovered. This bishop, by-the-way, was a *protege* of Isabel, the wolf of France, and was so ignorant, it is said, that he could not so much as read his own consecration bull.—The foundation-stone of a congregational chapel (the Albion) in St. Mary's-street, Southampton, was laid on Thursday week. The erection was contracted for at the sum of 3,400*l.*, under deduction of 300*l.* for old materials; but the estimate was reduced 200*l.* by leaving the gallery pews uncompleted.—Christ's Church, Parker's-row, Dockhead, Bermondsey, has been consecrated. It accommodates 6,000 persons.—The Roman Catholics of Bristol are about to erect a convent on the ground adjoining to their chapel, in front of Meridian-place, Clifton.—The Cross, a Nova Scotian journal, asks,—"What Protestant prelate now builds a cathedral, or even a parish church, in a land where the masses are living in the most stupid ignorance of all religion? The only thing they can boast of—St. Paul's—was built by a coal-tar." Of course, this civilised and enlightened Nova Scotian by "they" means the heathen and savage aborigines of the little island of Great Britain. But what cleanly bird is it that defiles the nest in which itself was fledged?

COMPETITIONS.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

SIR.—Might I suggest, through your columns, that the designs for the proposed Small-pox Hospital be exhibited to the profession and subscribers after the architects have selected the five, but before the premiums are awarded by the committee; and also, that the relative part of the architect's report be affixed to each design referred to in that document?

The importance of professional advice in such matters has been so often advocated, that it were pity to neglect an opportunity of testing a professional award. J. M. McC.

SIR.—Many competitions at the present time are conducted in a very irregular and frequently unjust manner; as in the late case of the Fulham Union, referred to by one of the competitors in your journal of last week. So long as committees are allowed to hold themselves irresponsible, to manage matters as they please, to conduct their proceedings with secrecy, without giving an account to any one, even the competitors themselves,—without making any acquainted with what majority the successful design was chosen, or for what reasons it obtained the preference; so long as they are allowed to call an umpire or not, and to appoint whom they please, qualified or unqualified, to such office,—to make an exhibition of the drawings, or not, as they may think proper;—so long as all this is tolerated, the whole host of abuses so loudly complained of by individual sufferers must be submitted to. It likewise cannot be said they have infringed with regard to rules, simply because none are acknowledged. Architects, as a body, however, have no right to complain, since it is their supineness which holds out impunity to committees, and leaves them to act in every case as they like, without a single effort being made on the part of the profession to compel that straightforward fair dealing towards them which nothing but the compulsion of stringent rules will secure; and until the profession generally unite, and make a stir in good earnest with the determination to redress themselves, by exacting from committees such conditions as shall guarantee impartiality, and do away with all secrecy, subterfuge, and suspicion, there cannot be the slightest hope of the system being reformed.—I am, Sir, &c.

G. J. RHODES.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW, STRATTON, CORNWALL.

SIR.—I read with great interest the article on "Cornish Churches" in a late number of your journal, as it has long been a matter of surprise to me, that so beautiful a class of churches should remain unvisited and unchronicled by the lovers of ecclesiastical architecture. I regret, however, that the observations it contains are but too true,—that many of those churches are in a lamentable state of dilapidation and neglect. The church of Stratton, in the northern part of the county, is a happy exception in the midst of general decay.

Through the unwearied exertions of the vicar, this church has lately been in great part substantially restored. The hideous deal boxes which covered the carved bench ends, and completely choked the church, have been swept away; and the floor, which was so cracked and broken, as in many places to consist of nothing but bare earth, has been made firm and sound.

In place of these and many other deformities, the church now presents a nice appearance internally; the whole of the seats are open (formed in a substantial way of deal, stained), the ends being of plain oak, except where the beautiful ancient ends are inserted: these consist principally of emblems of the Passion of our Lord.

The lectern is very cleverly arranged from some old screenwork of perpendicular character. The pulpit is of oak, and is of the period of the Renaissance. Among further additions to the church, are a fine-toned organ (by Gray and Davison), handsome fittings for the altar, a floriated cross at the east gable, and a beautiful corona and sconces.

The church, in its architectural character, is, like its neighbours, in the perpendicular style of the end of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century.